

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 H-02 INR-07 DLOS-04

PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00 /050 W

----- 031578

R 190700Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS TAIPEI 0415

TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, TW

SUBJECT: EXPLORATORY TRAWL FISHING IN WATERS OFF NEW ZEALAND

REF: TAIPEI A-230, NOV. 26, 1975

1. FROM DECEMBER 1974 THROUGH MARCH 1975 A RESEARCH VESSEL OF THE ROC DEEP-SEA FISHING TRAINING CENTER CONDUCTED EXPLORATORY TRAWL FISHING IN WESTERN WATERS OFF NEW ZEALAND. SIX PAIRS OF TAIWAN COMMERCIAL FISHING BOATS LATER BEGAN FISHING THESE WATERS AND REPORTED GOOD CATCHES.

2. IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT TAIWAN FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE WILL SEND ITS NEW RESEARCH VESSEL "HAI KANG" TO EXPLORE RESOURCES IN SOUTHEASTERN WATERS OFF NEW ZEALAND, BETWEEN CHATHAM ISLANDS AND SOUTH ISLAND. THE PROJECT WILL BE PARTIALLY FIANCED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (JCRR). (A JAPANESE RESEARCH VESSEL RECENTLY EXPLORED THESE WATERS AND REPORTEDLY FOUND ABUNDANT RESOURCES OF DEMERSAL FISH THERE.) THE TAIWAN VESSEL WILL CONDUCT ITS RESEARCH DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976, TRAWLING AT DEPTHS OF 250 TO 500 METERS.

3. TAIWAN FISHERMEN OPERATE ABOUT 420 BULL TRAWLERS AND 230 OTTER TRAWLERS ON THE OPEN SEAS; THEIR CATCHES AMOUNT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROXIMATELY 260,000 METRIC TONS ANNUALLY. FISHING WATERS

AVAILABLE TO THIS FLEET ARE DIMINISHING AS MORE AND MORE MARITIME
NATIONS CLAIM WIDER TERRITORIAL SEAS. TO MEET THIS PROBLEM, ROC
FISHERIES POLICY EMPHASISES EXPLORATION FOR NEW RESOURCES AND
NEGOTIATION OF COOPERATIVE FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, FISHERIES, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI00415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760019-0569
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760143/aaaabmbo.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OFA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TAIPEI A-230
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <09 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPLORATORY TRAWL FISHING IN WATERS OFF NEW ZEALAND
TAGS: EFIS, TW, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006